



# Teacher Child Interaction Training (TCIT)

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# What is Teacher Child Interaction Training?

- ▶ TCIT is an intensive behavior modification for children with **disruptive behaviors** (dangerous, destructive, non-compliance). It has 6 distinct DEFINING FEATURES:
  1. It is designed for ages **2 to 8 years old**, but extends through elementary age
  2. It coaches teachers **live and in person with blue-tooth device technology**. Can be done with 1 student or entire classroom.
  3. It a) *builds attachments* b) *manages tough behaviors*.

# TCIT Coaching

4. The coaching helps identifies and replaces *teachers' reactions* (Don't skills) with positive skills (the Do skills).
5. The live coaching also strengthens teacher's abilities to meet children's *social-emotional needs*, and therefore their *behavioral and **academic needs*** as well.
6. TCIT is adapted from Sheila Eyberg's Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) -1970's

# What skills do teachers learn in TCIT?

There are **TWO PHASES** of TCIT:

- Child-Directed Interaction (CDI)
  - ❑ Praise                      ↓ Negative Talk
  - ❑ Reflect                     ↓ Unnecessary Questions and Commands
  - ❑ Imitate
  - ❑ Describe
  - ❑ Enjoy!
- Teacher-Directed Interaction (TDI)
  - ❑ Praising the opposite
  - ❑ Effective commands and following through
  - ❑ “Sit and watch” for hurting others or non-compliance

GOAL: Stay in the classroom longer!

# Clinical View:



# Use of Technology- already ahead of Telehealth!





What it looks like:





# Here is what it looks like:

- ▶ This video clip was developed through this training:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89anSyC8rs8>



# BARRIERS:

Can we get TCIT to it's  
community  
members?

.....the road I've been on.....



# No Funding

- ▶ Had to hit the road and **GET THE WORD OUT** to classroom teacher and school administration to ask about behavior intervention. Educate them on TCIT – let them know there is HELP
- ▶ Discuss a plan for funding – (to be continued...)



# Where it has been disseminated so far:

- ▶ My first Teacher Child Interaction Training (TCIT) training group was a group of **80 daycare professionals** in the **Council Bluffs** area in February, 2013 through CCR&R and Promise Partner
- ▶ My first TCIT training for teachers took place April, 2014 with **45 educators** in the **Council Bluffs Community School District** through **Promise Partners Pottawattamie County Early Childhood Iowa Board and Council Bluffs Community Public Schools**

# Keep a move on...

- ▶ From there I entered into a contract with the **Omaha Public School District** to provide TCIT training for **22 of their staff** from 8/2015 through May/2016. This training was funded by the **Connections Program through Project Harmony and the North Omaha Learning Community Center**.
- ▶ I also entered into a 5 year contract with **Papillion-LaVista Public Schools** in 5/2015 to provide TCIT Training to it's district's teachers. This training project was funded through a **Community grant in combination with Project Harmony**. Throughout the 5 years of training, **6 coaches were trained and 77 teachers**

# Keep on truckin'..

- ▶ I began providing TCIT Training to **Mason City's school district** in 9/2015. **24 preschool educators and 7 coaches** were trained in the Mason City school district from 9/2015 through 5/2017. This training was funded by the **WellSource Health program until WellSource shut down in 2017.**
- ▶ I also trained **20 educators** in the **Bellevue Public School district** from 8/2016 to 5/2017. This training was funded in part by **Connections through Project Harmony** and in part through the **Bellevue Public School district.**
- ▶ I also entered into a contract to provide TCIT Training to **10 Educare** educators from 9/2016 through 12/2016 in Indian Hills and Kellom Head Start schools. Upon completion of the first semester of training, Educare was not able to fund the second semester of training.

# Total trained:

- ▶ In total I have trained:
- ▶ **Over 300 teachers/educators**
- ▶ **And over 80 daycare providers across NE and IA to this date!!**

# Until there is no track left...

- **All** schools that have participated have requested more training, but did not have enough funding available to continue it's efforts...





Find a New Road!



# Was that the end??

- ▶ In efforts to obtain consistent funding for the TCIT Intervention, I reached out to **Iowa's State Representative Mary Mascher** in November 2018. Through the process, I was introduced to Jim Donohue, the Educational Program Consultant through the Iowa **Department of Education** in February, 2019. He was able to assist collaboration with LeAnn Moskowitz, the **LTSS Policy Specialist through DHS/IME** in efforts to create a reimbursable funding source for TCIT
- ▶ LeAnn Moskowitz through DHS/IME approved a pilot study of TCIT to be done from Sept 2019 through the school year, ending May 2020.
- ▶ In September 2019 I submitted the "Pilot Project with Goal of Iowa Medicaid Enterprise considering adding TCIT as a covered benefit" to IME

# Hypothesis:

- ▶ Teachers who complete Teacher Child Interaction Therapy will report, for participating students, a **decrease in disruptive behavior**, as measured by the Sutter-Eyberg Student Behavior Inventory-Revised (SESBI-R) and will report **increases in resiliency and protective factors**, as measured by the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) and the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Preschoolers, Second Edition (DECA-P2). Teachers will also show an **increase in the TCIT skills** as measured by the Dyadic Parent-Child Interaction Coding System (DPICS-IV).

# Results:

- ▶ Overall, findings from Storm Lake and Cherokee, Iowa for fall 2019 indicate that TCIT was effective in **increasing social-emotional competence** among students. Moreover, **it was found to reduce both the intensity and frequency of disruptive behaviors** among students with high rates of problem behaviors in classroom settings. These findings appear to be consistent with previous TCIT implementation studies conducted in Mason City, Iowa; Bellevue, Nebraska; and La Vista, Nebraska.

Further, teacher skills improved over the course of the fall 2019 semester.

- ▶ \*\*See attached report



# What's the verdict?


- ▶ As of April, 2021 the pilot has been reviewed and accepted! **TCIT is currently a fundable services through Iowa Medicaid!**



# THERE IS HOPE!!!

- ▶ The hope is that we can get the information out to providers now to let them know about new funding!





THANK YOU for your time  
and commitment to  
families!

KELLI SLAGLE

EARLY OPPORTUNITY THERAPY SERVICES